

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: April 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on March 30, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response, Magellan Pipeline Oil Spill, Wayne, Illinois

On March 14, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Steve Faryan and Jaime Brown responded to a request for assistance from Ed Osowski of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for a 25 to 50-gallon diesel fuel spill in the Village of Wayne, Illinois. The spill area was a drainage ditch which drains to Norton Creek and ultimately to the Fox River. After initial investigation and attempted soil removal it was noticed that the diesel fuel in the soil appeared to be reemerging after soil was removed. Magellan Pipeline LP, the owners of the pipeline running underground parallel to the spill area, was contacted and a representative was sent to provide assistance. Upon further investigation a distinct change in the smell of the product seeping from the soil was noticed and Magellan began to take over emergency response activities as a potentially responsible party (PRP). A pin sized hole was found near a weld on the pipe. Magellan has removed the faulty section of pipe and installed a new section. Magellan is currently in the process of removing all impacted soils (approximately 350 cubic yards at one point) and verifying contaminant levels with analytical data. On March 27, 2007, OSCs Jaime Brown and Craig Thomas attended a public

meeting in Wayne, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to inform citizens of the efforts that have been ongoing and of future efforts to abate risks.

Contacts: Jamie Brown (312-886-2258)
Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Craig Thomas (312-886-5907)

Emergency Response, Parkview Drive Oil Spill, Defiance, Ohio

On March 13, 2007, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) James Justice responded to a request for assistance from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to contain and remove oil spilled from a fuel oil tank at a private residence in Defiance, Ohio. Between March 2 and March 13, 2007, approximately 217 gallons of oil leaked from a fuel oil tank to the ground after the tank collapsed and broke the valve. The oil migrated beneath the house into the septic system and discharged to a drainage ditch that is a tributary to the Auglaize River. U.S. EPA contractors contained the spill and collected all visible fuel oil from the drainage ditch, the septic tank, and an interceptor trench that was excavated along the house. An unknown quantity of oil remains in the soils beneath the house and continues to leach out into the septic tank. U.S. EPA continues to monitor the site to address any additional releases from the residence to the drainage ditch.

Contact: James Justice (734-692-7687)

Emergency Response, Addison Township Mercury Spill, Leonard, Michigan

On March 23, 2007, a mercury spill was discovered at the Stor Your Stuf storage facility in Leonard, Michigan. The spill was substantial, and elemental mercury was spread over the majority of the roadways around the storage lockers. The spill also entered a storm drain on site. Initial estimates were that approximately 1 quart of mercury was released. Local Fire, HAZMAT, Health Department, and Sheriff's office personnel responded to control the scene. The facility owner hired a spill response contractor to conduct a cleanup. Due to the size of the spill, local officials requested U.S. EPA's assistance with both technical oversight of the cleanup and an assessment of surrounding soils. The majority of the spill cleanup was

completed on March 24, and U.S. EPA completed the sampling portion of the site assessment on March 28.

Contacts: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)
Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)

PRP Emergency Removal Action, Miller Salvage Site, Latham, Ohio

Since February 1, 2007, U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Branch has been overseeing a potentially responsible party (PRP) emergency removal action at the Miller Salvage site, Latham, Ohio. The facility is attempting to recycle wood waste from a commercial cabinet maker. The wood waste pile has grown to over 30 feet high and covers 5 acres of land. High levels of ammonia and lower levels of other hazardous substances are present in the material. The wood waste pile is saturated with leachate, and the two leachate collection ponds (200,000 and 1.9 million gallons) require drawdown to meet the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA's) requirement of two feet of managed freeboard. The current site owner/operator was not complying with the drawdown requirement. In January, Ohio EPA requested that U.S. EPA take removal actions to protect Kincaid Creek, which is the sole water source for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Fish Hatchery, from imminent threats of mass leachate releases (leachate, contaminated with high concentrations of ammonia, also seeps via karst geologic groundwater pathways into Kincaid Creek). On many occasions, the hatchery was forced to evacuate their fish stock due to highly toxic ammonia levels in Kincaid Creek. Some of the PRPs have agreed to take on the emergency action to drawdown leachate, but there is no commitment to conduct a full removal action.

Contacts: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)
Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

Removal Completion, Outboard Marine Corporation Superfund Site, Waukegan, Illinois

On March 22, 2007, the copper removal action at the Outboard Marine Corporation Superfund site in Waukegan, Illinois, was completed. The removal action consisted of removing the copper wire and buss bar from this large facility, selling it, and placing the money in a "special account" to be used at a later date for building demolition. The removal action was performed to minimize the potential for exposure to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oil residue inside of the building by unauthorized

scrappers of the copper materials. The gross income from the sale of the copper is estimated to be \$240,000, at a cost of approximately \$120,000, resulting in net proceeds to the special account of approximately \$120,000.

Contact: Kenneth Theisen (312-886-1959)

Five Year Review Signed, Baytown Township Ground Water Plume Superfund Site, Baytown Township and Washington Townships, Minnesota

On March 29, 2007, the Five Year Review was signed for the Baytown Township Ground Water Plume Superfund site, Baytown Township and Washington Townships, Minnesota. Implemented remedies include: 1) install and maintain granulated activated carbon (GAC) units on private wells that have trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations that exceed Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Health Risk Levels (HRLs); 2) conduct long-term monitoring of private water supply wells and monitoring wells to evaluate the need for treatment, and clearly define the edges of the plume; 3) maintain the Special Well Construction Area (SWCA) created by the MDH for the site in 1988 and subsequently expanded due to changes in MDH TCE standards (the SWCA is to inform well owners and drillers about the contaminated ground water in the area and to prevent further degradation of local aquifers by ensuring proper construction of new wells); and, 4) remain current with the latest TCE health risk information (specifically, U.S. EPA's pending revisions of the toxicity values for TCE ingestion, inhalation, and dermal exposure) and if new information warrants it, MDH may consider a revision to the current TCE HRL. The remedy is functioning as intended and is protective of human health and the environment in the short-term. Long-term protectiveness will be achieved when source areas are addressed and MDH limits are achieved throughout the plume.

Contact: Tom Williams (312-886-6157)

RMP Inspection Conducted, Berkshire Refrigerated Warehousing, LLC, Chicago, Illinois

On March 27, 2007, Silvia Palomo from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at Berkshire Refrigerated Warehousing, LLC, in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the use of anhydrous ammonia in a refrigeration system. The facility operates 5.2 million cubic feet of freezer space to

offer public cold storage and warehousing services to a variety of food processors and manufactures.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

RMP Inspection Conducted, Union Carbide Corporation, Alsip, Illinois

On March 28, 2007, Silvia Palomo from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at Union Carbide Corporation in Alsip, Illinois. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the handling of vinyl acetate monomer which is a regulated substance under the RMP regulations. The facility is engaged in the production of synthetic latex polymer products, which are sold to customers that convert them into finished products, such as latex paint, caulk, and adhesives.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

RMP Inspection Conducted, Chicago Hospitality, Chicago, Illinois

On March 29, 2007, Silvia Palomo from the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section (CEPPS) conducted an inspection at Chicago Hospitality in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program (RMP) that the facility has in place for the use of anhydrous ammonia in a refrigeration system. The facility is in the business of processing prepared foods.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Annual Meeting, Midwest Regional Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, Argonne, Illinois

From March 14-16, 2007, the Midwest Regional Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (MW-SETAC) held its annual meeting jointly with the Chicago Regional Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois. Three nationally recognized scientists addressed the keynote theme of "Moving Toward Cumulative Risk

Assessment". Concurrent platform sessions followed. One platform session track addressed topics related to the keynote theme (cumulative risk assessment, chemical mixtures, and Brownfield/land reuse), whereas the other covered the topics normally covered at SETAC conferences. Chuck Maurice, Field Services Section, was the Program Chair of the meeting, selected for a second term on the MW-SETAC Board of Directors, and elected as Vice President of the Chapter. Platform presenters from the Superfund Division consisted of Chuck Maurice, Warren Layne, Jim Vander Kloot, and Deborah Orr. Other Region 5 presenters included Mario Mangino (Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division), Tom Brody (Resource Management Division), and George Bollweg (Air and Radiation Division). Mark Johnson and Laurel Berman (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) also delivered presentations, as did U.S. EPA scientists from Regions 2 and 6, and the Cincinnati, Duluth, and Research Triangle Park laboratories. (See <http://www.midwestsetac.org/index.htm>.)

Contact: Chuck Maurice (312-886-6635)

Downriver Emergency Response Team Meeting, Rockwood, Wayne County, Michigan

On March 27, 2007, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) James Justice and Michelle Jaster attended the Downriver Emergency Response Team (DERT) meeting held in Rockwood, Michigan. The DERT is comprised of representatives from numerous Fire Departments located throughout Southeastern Michigan. The DERT meets and trains regularly with local area hospitals, industry, government, and other response teams. This month's meeting focused on Unified Incident Command, and included several tabletop exercises. In addition, a representative from Wayne County's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division presented an overview of the Smart Message communications system available to all Wayne County agencies and municipalities. The Smart Message system allows personnel from different jurisdictions to easily communicate with one another via phones, pagers, and email. U.S. EPA's Response Section 1 will participate in and contribute to many of the trainings and exercises planned by DERT for the coming year.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)
Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

Spill of National Significance Upper Mississippi River Venue Final Planning Conference, St. Louis, Missouri

On March 19-20, 2007, there was a Spill of National Significance (SONS) final planning conference for the Upper Mississippi venue in St. Louis, Missouri. Sheila Calovich and Barbi Lee of Emergency Response Branch 1 and Kevin Turner of Emergency Response Branch 2 attended the meeting from U.S. EPA Region 5. U.S. EPA Region 7, United States Coast Guard, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), and industry representatives were also in attendance at the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to finalize venue and area command staffing, extent of venue play, and the master sequence of events list. This meeting was also preparing for national Final Planning Conference that will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, the week of March 26, 2007.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

Meeting, Central Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, Chicago, Illinois

On March 23, 2007, the regular meeting of the Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC) was held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5 offices. As part of a more extensive presentation on a number of items, FEMA staff also provided an update regarding the Central Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (CREMAC). While not having been active for the past couple of years, this initiative is again being reenergized. The group is made up of representatives from several agencies involved in emergency response from both Canadian and U.S. Federal governments, as well as State and Provincial personnel. A general organizational meeting was convened on January 31 and February 1 of this year and attended by several representatives, including personnel from both FEMA Regions 2 and 5, and Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. Materials and documents related to U.S. EPA's cross border activities with Environment Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, and Emergency Management Ontario have been shared with FEMA Region 5 personnel. Future discussions and planning will occur.

Contact: Chris Christenson (312-353-6303)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Thank you Letter (Michelle Jaster and Brian Schlieger), Annual Career Day, O.W. Best Middle School, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Response Section 1 received a thank you letter for On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Michelle Jaster and Brian Schlieger from Ann Stubbs and Kerry Herd, Counselors from O.W. Best Middle School, Dearborn Heights, Michigan. It states: "On behalf of the students and staff at O.W. Best Middle School, we would like to thank you for presenting at our annual Career Day. We hope the experience was an enjoyable one for you. It was a great opportunity for our students to learn about jobs in different career pathways. Please know that you touched many lives during your day at O.W. Best. We hope to see you again next year."

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)
Scott Sherman (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OSWER)
Ed Chu (OSWER)
David Lopez (OSRTI)
Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)
Susan Bromm (OECA)
Catherine McCabe (OECA)
Barnes Johnson (OSRTI)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)
Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)
Debbie Dietrich (OEM)
Dana Tulis (OEM)
Craig Beasley (OEM)
Jim Woolford (OSRTI)
Gail Cooper (FFRRO)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors